

REGION and DISTRICT MEETS IN THE SPRING 2014

We are in the process of evaluating our district and region level VSI meets. VSI has grown considerably in the last few years. In 2010, there were roughly 5800 athletes in the LSC and today there are almost 7,000, about a 20% increase. For many years, VSI had four district meets for swimmers who had not yet reached a BB standard (or sometimes harder standard), and then the next week, three region meets for swimmers who didn't have the AG or SR Champ qualifying time but did have the BB standard. This past spring, the district meet continued to run at four sites, but was a 12 & under meet for all swimmers who had not achieved AG qualifying times. The region meet ran the next weekend for 13 & over swimmers, in three sites, who had not achieved AG or SR Champ qualifying times. Please take a moment and review a few proposals that have been put forth for discussion.

Objectives to keep in mind:

- **Opportunities:** maximizing the opportunity for VSI athletes
- **Costs:** how to minimize expenses to swimmers/Families
- **Competition:** are the meets/formats competitive enough
- **Athlete Progression:** Are the meets/formats allowing for athlete growth
- **Facilities:** do we have the facilities to run the meets/formats

Proposal #1: Return to the old format, but place harder standards on the Region meet to help manage the number of bodies in the meet better, and also place standards on the District meet so those numbers are also better managed. This continues to allow for advancement from one meet to the next, a format that some folks seem to prefer. By keeping 4 districts and 3 regions, some feel the competition gets better as you advance as it is broader (more teams). It could cut some swimmers out of the District meet if they fail to meet qualifying standards.

Proposal #2: Make the District meet strictly a 10 & Under meet, for those without AG Champ qualifying times. Award single age groups – 7,8,9,10 (6 & under?) Have a big hooaha for these younger kids. Meanwhile, expand the Region meet to FOUR sites, add the 11 & 12 swimmers without AG Champs cuts to this meet and have them swim prelims in the morning with the 13 & over swimmers, as well as finals at night. Maybe swim finals with top 8 11 year olds, top 8 12 year olds, top 8 13 year olds, top 8 14 year olds, and top 8 15 & over swimmers (this in order to keep the finals' sessions from being too long). This give 11-12 swimmers the opportunity for two swims as they attempt to qualify for AG champs.

Proposal #3: Use the basic format of this past spring, fixing the award and scoring system and putting some tweaks in to formats to manage time better, etc., and see if it doesn't work ok that way.

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK.! Which proposal do you prefer? What suggestions do you have to make any proposal better? Do you have an entirely different proposal? We will vote on the format at the fall VSI meetings (Age Group committee) and would appreciate your participation in helping us come up with the best solution for all of our swimmers. (Realizing, of course, that everyone is not going to agree on the same course of action). Please use the back side of this paper to write down your preference, the district and region your team is currently in, any ideas old or new you think would be helpful, and return this paper to Scott Baldwin at the Age Group Championship meet or email: edbaldwi@vt.edu.

Thank you in advance for your input!

Scott Baldwin

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